

A Climate Within

Fernandez-Pello, Carlos (2011). "A Climate Within" in Mountain Island Glacier. Ed. Broken Dimanche Press, Berlin.

A Climate Within was an international pre-terrorist group started operating in Iceland in November, Nineteen Sixty Three, and is believed to have disbanded in Two Thousand Six. Not much is known about them except for the literature they produced during a staggering forty three years, making them one of the few, if not the only, publishing terrorist group, and surely the most enduring. Despite having put an end to their activities and being generally considered as indefatigable charlatans, there are enough truthful anomalies in their mumbo jumbo as to regard them as just plain liars.

Although initially perceived as political insurgents and public agitators, the Icelandic authorities, according to the group's own records, soon believed them to be potentially harmless and having a tendency to exaggerate their own scope. Early investigations led to conclude that the group barely had any financial support and no access whatsoever to fire weapons, taking them off the full-fledged terrorist list and confining them to a pre-category of terrorism. Their claims were likewise never taken too seriously as they fluctuated between euroscepticism, sci-fi paraphernalia and an inexplicable obsession for natural disasters. Curiously enough, Interpol insisted on considering them a serious public threat after they claimed responsibility for the destruction of the Slovenian town of Gemona during the Nineteen Seventy Three earthquake, up until Nineteen Ninety Seven, when they were deemed harmless lunatics thanks to a series of self-published dossiers. The reason: a thorough confession in which they admitted that the Central Europe floods had been caused by their own esoteric ability to travel in time.

As for their origins, local lore has it that a group of four geologists was definitely seen in the town of Hvolsvöllur back in Nineteen Sixty Three, a week before the emergence of Surtsey – a volcanic island twenty nautical miles off the southern coast of Iceland. They locked themselves in a rented house that belonged to Harald Vatunsen, a local farmer, and had absolutely no contact with anyone else, leaving for the island on November Fourteenth. They were never to be seen again, and despite both the town council and the national geological society reporting their disappearance, to this day the police have not filed any missing person reports by any relative.

The group's internal documents precisely point to this event as their foundation and as the moment when they decided to take on a terrorist strategy. The implications of being atop a newly emerged land led them to think systemic opposition could only be achieved through the awakening of floating territories and that natural phenomena were specially effective in raising this abstract political awareness. According to their own records, in this very first meeting they devised a plan to progressively build a supernatural enemy whose anatomy would be divided into four areas or worlds (sic).

These worlds would take the name of Jupiter's Galilean satellites, namely Io, Ganymedes, Calisto and Europa, each of them comprised of "a series of attacks on natural instabilities with the purpose of inoculating the earth's mantle with a renewed passion in its own fictitious rendering."

Ever since, the group has been officially made up of four individuals: Miran Vogelnik, Elin Amundsdottir, Dusan Gautur and Freyja Molly. Further investigation into their personal heritage revealed Belgian, Swiss and Icelandic origins, but the truth is that their names are suspected of being part of their disguise routines, making it possible for new recruits to impersonate the original characters and continue with the missions entrusted to each of the worlds. Their original dossiers are not clear on this point and always seem to refer to them as being the same four people that founded the group back then. Yet, being already full-grown adults back in the Sixties and having claimed responsibility for natural disasters as late as Two Thousand and Six, it is presumed that their identities are in effect codenames preserved for the sake of their long-lasting time travelling narrative.

As the documents reads on, we learn that their enormous task would be achieved by the activation of mineral by-products such as sulphur or calamine. As to how this activation would take place, or the effect it would have on the landscape, there is little explanation other than tongue twisting alchemical jargon and a few hermetic emblems. There is actually some graphic documentation of early rituals in which the four members, clad in green robes, would gather around a considerable amount of yellow sulphur as if to invoke their otherworldly spirits. However this sectarian fashion was soon dropped and was last mentioned by the group in Nineteen Seventy Three.

The link between the group's political ambitions and this mystical genesis of our cosmology remains disturbingly unclear except for sulphur being historically related to the *philosophical* mercury, and contained in volcanoes' calderas and stellar cores. Thorough reading of the dossiers does reveal the group's strong interest in how volcanoes could help develop a reversed theory of economic geology based on the ideas of professor R. Meira of Medellin's National University of Colombia. It is proposed that "a volcanic ashcloud produced by an eruption could be considered as a new strata within geological standards; a portion of geomorphological material atmospherically suspended subject to further economic exploitation".

One could say this speculative vision of sorts does bare some resemblance to both A Climate Within's taste for emerging lands and the alchemical vapours of creation. Specially when at the end of the fourth dossier they refer to the first emblem in Atalanta Fugiens depicting the "wind's embryo" and to Professor Meira's ideas as theoretical grounds for their last attack: the one that would "awake the inner leviathan once we are gone".

Following the group's inner logic, this has been interpreted as a telluric chain reaction of the earth's mantle lava flows. What was devised back in the early Sixties was that natural phenomena had an even greater political impact when attached to a narrative. Therefore they would use these phenomena as portals into the inner world – as breaches of surface reality – to induce a series of mineral shocks into the earthly magma that would eventually, without their aid, produce a perpetual resonance that would tell its own story.

For forty-three years the group claimed responsibility for almost every natural catastrophe in Europe but their allegations always fell short of media coverage. They even leaked a plethora of local news reports on their unnoticed hallmark: a backpack containing a varying quantity of hemimorphite and wrapped in a pentagonal green drape that had been repeatedly found in the vicinity of the disasters' epicentres. Despite their efforts, no periodical ever managed to connect the news to previous events, probably due to its merely local reach and utter absurdity.

It was not until Two Thousand Six that the group's darkest and most gruesome chapter would - ironically - break the pattern and bring them into the spotlight. The body of a young woman was found at the bottom of the Upper Grindelwald Glacier and a bag was located next to a crevice containing not minerals but a green drape with an embroidered white star. As it was completely disfigured, the Swiss authorities were unable to identify the body, but the group later admitted the loss of Freyja Molly in a *communiqué*. Rumours about internal differences regarding the group's future moves triggered theories of betrayal and murder. Apparently the group had been planning to go public for a long time and monetize their whole story with media appearances, a proper book and even some sort of blockbuster movie. Freyja - or her contemporary alter ego - would have contested this decision arguing that mainstream political action would ruin the emancipatory potential of their own story and would turn their veil of smoke into a solid and solemn bomb of serious and professional emptiness. While the idea of emancipation certainly relied on the need of the story being told she would oppose a direct intervention of the so-called protagonists. To her, their deliberate absence would be the actual leviathan that would survive their labour; the real telluric forces of fiction, slow and anonymous as they may be.

The truth is that no actual clue pointing to homicide was found and only a notebook containing detailed plans about a last mission was located in her pocket. This last operation's codename, Island Glacier Mountain, has been considered by Icelanders to be an intentional word juggle of Island Mountain Glacier, or Eyjafjallajökull, suggesting a subtle gimmick on parallel reality [note], and an indirect claim of the volcano's eruption in Two Thousand Ten. It has also been pointed out that this word game could be the tip of a peculiar iceberg: it was not until two months after her death that a hidden diary was found within the footnotes of some of the articles published along the group's

dossiers. The text, signed under Freyja's pen-name Pavla Ascher, describes in first person several events that resemble her own struggle with the group, including the suicide of a male member and a final mission with an icelandic codename, and has led many to wonder wether she was foreseeing the future or simply confessing her suicidal plans.

Either way, while the material link between A Climate Within and the eruption of the Eyfajjallajökull is plain fantasy, their ambiguous heritage has definately made this volcanic suspended continent into the actual beginning of their story without them.